

| | Health | Environmental |
|--|---|---|
| carbon particles or soot or C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • can cause respiratory problems, particles irritate the lungs, particularly bronchioles and alveoli <i>eg asthma and lung cancer</i> • can cause cardiovascular problems, particles get into the arteries and clog them <i>eg heart disease</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • can coat buildings with a black residue • can scatter and block solar radiation, reducing the efficiency of photosynthesis |
| carbon monoxide or CO | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • toxic gas which combines with haemoglobin in the blood, prevents oxygen being carried around the body, resulting in death | <p><i>CO is quickly converted to CO₂ in the atmosphere</i></p> |
| carbon dioxide or CO₂ | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a greenhouse gas, causes heat energy to be trapped on Earth, resulting in global warming, melting of ice caps, sinking of Pacific islands • an acidic gas which increases the acidity of the oceans resulting in damage to coral <i>eg at the Great Barrier Reef</i> |